- A barrier for protecting an object from encroaching elements comprising:

   an organic bentonite-based material; and
   an outer boundary surface disposed to retain the material in a selected
   location, the location at least partially surrounding the object.
- 2. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the boundary surface comprises a retaining device configured to retain the material.
  - 3. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the object comprises a pole.
- 4. The barrier of claim 3, wherein the material is disposed surrounding the base of the pole.
- 5. The barrier of claim 3, wherein the material is disposed around the pole extending outward from the pole a distance of between about 6 inches to about 10 feet.
- 6. The barrier of claim 3, wherein the material is disposed around the pole extending outward from the pole a distance of between about 2 inches and about 5 feet.
- 7. The barrier of claim 3, wherein the material is disposed around the pole extending outward from the pole a distance of about 3 feet.
- 8. The barrier of claim 3, wherein the material is disposed around the pole to a depth in the range of between about .25 inches and about 4 feet.
- 9. The barrier of claim 3, wherein the material is disposed around the pole to a depth in the range of between about 4 inches and about 2 feet.

- 10. The barrier of claim 3, wherein the material is disposed around the pole to a depth of about 8 inches.
- 11. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the boundary surface comprises an annular plastic sheet.
- 12. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the boundary surface comprises the edges of a depression.
  - 13. A method for protecting an object, the method comprising:

    providing an outer boundary surface disposed to retain a material in a selected location, the location at least partially surrounding the object; and depositing an organic bentonite-based material.
- 14. The method of claim 13, wherein providing an outer boundary surface comprises creating a depression about the object for holding the material.
- 15. The method of claim 13, wherein providing an outer boundary surface comprises installing a circular plastic sheet configured to retain the material.
- 16. The method of claim 13, wherein depositing the material further comprises depositing the material in a radius about the object.
- 17. The method of claim 13, further comprising depositing the material and forming an upward slope towards the object.

- 18. The method of claim 13, wherein depositing the material further comprises pumping the material from a source.
- 19. The method of claim 13, wherein depositing the material further comprises shoveling the material from the source.
  - 20. A barrier for protecting an object from encroaching elements comprising: a pole;

an organic bentonite-based material;

an annular plastic sheet disposed to retain the material in a selected location, the location at least partially surrounding the object;

the material is disposed around the pole extending outward from the pole a distance of about 3 feet; and

the material is disposed around the pole to a depth of about 8 inches.